

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended herein. All of the pending claims 1 through 16 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

### Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for assigning an animal to a group selected from:
  - (a) animals infected with wild-type Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV) or vaccinated with a first vaccine comprising an unmodified mesogenic or lentogenic NDV strain of NDV; and
  - (b) animals not infected with or vaccinated against NDV and animals vaccinated with a second vaccine comprising an infectious copy of an avian paramyxovirus at least partly derived from NDV obtainable by a process comprising: transfecting at least one cell with an avian-paramyxovirus cDNA comprising a nucleic acid sequence corresponding to the 5'-terminal end of the genome of avian paramyxovirus to generate an infectious copy of an avian paramyxovirus, wherein said infectious copy of the avian-paramyxovirus encodes one or more viral proteins having a modification relative to wild-type or an unmodified mesogenic or lentogenic NDV strain,said method comprising:
  - providing a population of animals wherein one or more of the animals in said population has been vaccinated with said second vaccine;
  - taking at least one sample from an animal in said population to be assigned ; and
  - analyzing said at least one sample to determine the presence of antibodies directed against an epitope or marker expressed by an animal infected with wild-type NDV or vaccinated with said first vaccine ~~unmodified NDV~~, but not by an animal vaccinated with said second vaccine;
  - correlating the presence of antibodies directed against an epitope or marker expressed by an animal infected with wild-type NDV or vaccinated with said first vaccine, but not by an animal vaccinated with said second vaccine, with the animal not having been immunized with said second vaccine; and
  - assigning the animal to a group.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said antibodies directed against an epitope or marker expressed by wild-type or unmodified NDV, but not by said second vaccine are directed against an epitope on a hemagglutinin-neuraminidase or fusion protein of Newcastle Disease Virus.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the modification is in a viral nucleocapsid, phosphoprotein or large polymerase protein.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein said animal is a chicken.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein said animal is a chicken.

6. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic kit for use in a method according to claim 1, said diagnostic kit comprising an antigen for reacting with said antibodies, wherein said antigen comprises an epitope or marker expressed by wild-type or unmodified Newcastle Disease Virus, but not by the vaccine.

7. (Withdrawn) The diagnostic kit of claim 6, further comprising a vaccine specific antigen for reacting with said antibodies, wherein the vaccine specific antigen comprises an epitope expressed by the vaccine, but not the wild-type or unmodified Newcastle Disease Virus.

8. (Withdrawn) The diagnostic kit of claim 6, wherein said infectious copy of an avian-paramyxovirus further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heterologous antigen and said vaccine specific antigen comprises an epitope of said heterologous antigen.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said Newcastle Disease Virus is a lentogenic virus.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said modification comprises a modification of a structural protein.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said modification comprises a modified protease cleavage site.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said cleavage site is a protease cleavage site of the fusion protein.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said modification comprises a modified hemagglutinin-neuraminidase protein.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said modification comprises a modified matrix protein.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said infectious copy of an avian-paramyxovirus further comprises a nucleic acid encoding a heterologous antigen.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, wherein said heterologous antigen is derived from a poultry pathogen.